

### **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Please note that the amendments to the amendments provided above are offered to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 18 (including intervening claims 16 and 17) into independent claim 1. *No new matter has been introduced as a result of the above-listed amendments to the claims, and no new search is required.*

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance because the claims, as amended, are non-obvious and patentable over the cited references. The following paragraphs provide the justification for this belief. In view of the following reasonings for allowance, the Applicant hereby respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the subject patent application.

#### **1.0 Allowable Subject Matter:**

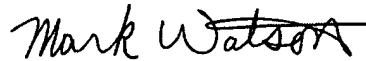
The Office Action of October 5, 2004 indicated that dependent claims 18-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, independent claim 1, the parent claim of dependent claims 18-20, has been amended to include the limitations of claims 16-18. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to reflect a change in dependency as a result of the cancellation of claims 16-18, and the inclusion of the subject matter of those claims into independent claim 1.

Therefore, since claim 1 now includes allowable subject matter, in accordance with paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action of October 5, 2004, applicants respectfully suggest that independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-15 and 19-31 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of claims 1-3, 5-17, 21-36 and 38-53, and objection to claims 18-20, and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of

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the subject application, the Applicant kindly invites the Examiner to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (805) 278-8855 if the Examiner has any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



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